United Nations S/2001/412

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 April 2001
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 25 April 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to call your attention to an item entitled "The ongoing story of Kuwaiti mendacity" that was broadcast by the Iraqi satellite television channel on the evening of 23 April 2001 (see annex). The channel claimed that in the report you submitted to the Security Council in late March on the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) (S/2001/287), you revealed that Kuwait had engaged in "a high level of activity ... at the oil installations on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone, ... near Abdali", and it represented this as documented proof that Kuwait had been stealing Iraqi oil. In view of the serious nature of these allegations, I should like to state the facts set forth hereunder.

1. The item on the so-called "ongoing story of mendacity" broadcast by the Iraqi satellite television channel is an obvious and deliberate distortion of the facts. Paragraph 10 of your semi-annual report on UNIKOM reads as follows:

> "A high level of activity was observed at the oil installations on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone, particularly near Abdali. Iraqi oil production in the same vicinity also expanded considerably during the reporting period."

This clearly shows that the Iraqi satellite television channel neglected to cite the second sentence in the paragraph and focused only on the mention of oil-related activity on the Kuwaiti side, producing this as evidence that Kuwait was stealing Iraqi oil and representing it to be a fact documented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. The Iraqi assertions accusing Kuwait of draining off Iraqi oil reservoirs by way of Kuwait's northern oilfields are not new. Officials of the Iraqi regime have from time to time made it their custom to level such accusations in the context of their ongoing policy of contriving crises. This policy reflects the true state of affairs with respect to the intentions the regime has for Kuwait, which are other than peaceful and are, indeed, hostile, as is indicated, in particular, by the fact that the selfsame assertion or accusation was used by the Iraqi regime to justify its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

3. For its part, Kuwait has refuted the Iraqi accusations that Kuwait is stealing oil, and it documented this refutation in its identical letters dated 18 September 2000 (S/2000/876). Kuwait has also declared its readiness to cooperate with any impartial

01-35148 (E) 300401 300401

body the Security Council may see fit to establish to investigate these Iraqi accusations, on the understanding that such a body should visit Kuwaiti and Iraqi oilfields on both sides of the border.

4. The high significance of the item broadcast by the Iraqi satellite television channel lies in the fact that it distorted the true nature of the statement made in the Secretary-General's report and exploited it in such a way as to serve the purposes of repeated Iraqi allegations and claims that have no basis in truth. The reference in your report to oil-related activity on the Kuwaiti side and on the Iraqi side was, after all, made in the context of a characterization of the situation in the demilitarized zone and without any indication that there had been any violation by either party. This would therefore confirm that such oil-related activity is a sovereign right of both Kuwait and Iraq in exploiting the wells located inside their respective territories in the border region.

5. While Kuwait is constantly giving expression, in word and deed, to its sympathy for the suffering of the Iraqi people, the Iraqi regime is most regrettably arousing the sentiments of Iraqi citizens against the Government and people of Kuwait in a manifest attempt to invert the facts, shirk its responsibility for the aggression it committed against Kuwait in 1990 and sow hatred and enmity among the peoples of the region. This is to be regarded as a most dangerous matter for the future of the region and for its security.

Accordingly, Kuwait denies these repeated Iraqi accusations in the strongest terms. It urges you, by virtue of your responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security, to deal vigorously and expeditiously with these fallacies, to intervene with the Iraqi Government in order to ask it to desist from maintaining such an attitude and from engaging in hostile practices that pose a serious threat to the security and stability of Kuwait, and to take whatever measures are necessary to refute in an unequivocal manner the transparent Iraqi attempts to falsify and distort the facts.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mansour Ayyad Sh. A. **Al-Otaibi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 25 April 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Item broadcast on the Iraqi satellite television channel on 23 April 2001

Follow-up to the news

The ongoing story of Kuwaiti mendacity

The rulers of Kuwait began their lives on the political stage with a lie, and they have continued in this mode of falsification, mendacity and deception so as to inflict harm on the Arab nation. As for the ongoing story of Kuwaiti mendacity and fabrication against Iraq, the instalments of that serial began at the time the national regime in Iraq first came into being. But it acquired a regular form in 1990 when the American public relations companies contrived the drama of Nayyirah and the incubators and that of the seagull.

The rulers of Kuwait have learnt nothing from the disclosure of their lies and have indeed continued them in a frenzied campaign to perpetuate the crime of the embargo and the crime of aggression.

Here is an update report on the continuing story of Kuwaiti mendacity

Since 1990 the ongoing story of the mendacity and falsification practised by the rulers of Kuwait has had no ending. Time has hardly effaced one of their wholesale fabrications before the vipers of the House of Sabah spew out a new lie in the long series that was begun by Nayyirah Al-Sabah with her lie about the incubators and the premature babies and that leads up to the denial by the mendacious rulers that they have been stealing Iraqi oil, despite the fact that this has been documented by Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The rulers of Kuwait have never learnt anything from the exposure of their lies and of the falsity of their allegations. Indeed the passing of the years and, with them, the growth of Arab and international support for Iraq's cause and for its just demand that the embargo be lifted have kindled in the souls of the House of Sabah clique a fire of enmity and rancour towards Iraq and has impelled them to commit many new stupidities that have prevented inter-Arab reconciliation.

Bush the Younger, who depends on those who launched the 1991 aggression, had no sooner announced his policy towards Iraq than the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia began a wide-ranging media, diplomatic and political campaign in order to perform the role assigned to them in the corridors and lobbies of the Black House and in order to implement the anti-Iraq policy of their American masters.

The frenzied Kuwaiti campaign against Iraq coincided with the American call for a strengthening of the embargo behind the facade of so-called smart sanctions, and it was reflected in the statements made by a number of the rulers of Kuwait seeking the retention of the embargo imposed on Iraq. In addition to their endeavour to prolong the embargo, the rulers of Kuwait are doing everything in their power so that the military aggression against Iraq by way of the United States military bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia can continue and are insisting that the so-called no-

flight zones imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom outside the framework of the relevant United Nations resolutions should be maintained.

Accordingly, Sabah Al-Ahmad insolently declares that the no-flight zone in southern Iraq is essential to Kuwait's security. The statements of Sabah Al-Ahmad represent an explicit invitation to his American masters to continue the daily aggression being carried out by United States and British aircraft against Iraq, and they contribute to the scheme to justify the United States occupation of Kuwait. This is especially evident since Sabah Al-Ahmad said in the very same statement: "We will never say to the Americans and the British, 'Get out of Kuwait'".

This demonstrates the malicious motives that drive the rulers of Kuwait and their Saudi partners in their frenzied campaign against Iraq, which they are trying to conceal behind a facade of hypocrisy and falsification by means of attempts to portray themselves as not being opposed to the lifting of the embargo being maintained against Iraq.

The rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, however, quickly betrayed themselves when they opposed the adoption by the regular session of the Arab Summit Conference held in Amman of a separate resolution calling for the lifting of the embargo against Iraq and when they evaded any commitment to the committee to monitor the situation between Iraq and Kuwait that the Arab Summit decided to establish under the chairmanship of King Abdullah II of Jordan.

It appears that, in reality, the rulers of Kuwait are in need of a pretext to justify the United States occupation of their country and that they find it in promoting the policy of their American masters with regard to so-called smart sanctions against Iraq. This was abundantly clear in the position they maintained, together with the rulers of Saudi Arabia, at the Amman Summit.

To further expose their misrepresentations and lies concerning the prolongation of the embargo against Iraq, Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in the report on the activities of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission in the demilitarized zone that he submitted to the Security Council in late March, reveals that "A high level of activity was observed at the oil installations on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone, ... near Abdali".

The statement in Kofi Annan's report is interpreted by oil industry people to mean that the rulers of Kuwait are draining off Iraqi oil from the Iraqi reservoirs located over the boundary or, in plainer terms, that they are stealing Iraq's oil.

Iraqi experts estimate the value of the quantities of Iraqi oil that have been stolen by the rulers of Kuwait at 2 billion dollars. Does not Iraq therefore have a right to demand that the United Nations and the Security Council should halt this "high activity" theft?

These are some of the instalments there have been in the ongoing story of Kuwaiti mendacity that first began in 1991 and that has yet to end, despite the ever-expanding map of Arab and international support for Iraq.